

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 16 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

IN TUESDAY ADDRESS TO DAR, PRES SAID US WILL BE STRONGER,
WISER AFTER HEROIC SACRIFICES, GREAT DISAPPOINTMENTS IN
INDOCHINA (UPI, CHITRIB; PHINQ). IN SPEECH, PRES APPEARED
TRYING REVERSE PESSIMISTIC TALK ADMIN ITSELF ENGAGED IN
WHEN EARLIER SAID CAMBODIA, VN LOSSES WOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE
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US FOREIGN POLICY (KILPATRICK/GETLER, WP). NESSEN
DISCLOSES PUBLIC RESPONSE RECEIVED BY WH RUNNING AGAINST
PRES' APR 10 PROPOSALS OF 722 MILLION DOLS SVN MIL AID
(SHABECOFF, NYT). SECDEF TELLS O'SEAS PRES CLUB IMPROVED

PERSPECTIVE OVER US NATO ROLE EMERGING WITH SLACKING OF PASSIONS OVER INDOCHINA; AND TREATY COMMITMENTS TO JAPAN, KOREA AND NATO REMAIN FIRM (KILPATRICK/GETLER).

SPEAKING BEFORE SAC TUESDAY, SECSTATE STEPPED BACK FROM "DOMINO THEORY," REQUESTED AID FOR "LAST BARGAINING CHIP" TO PERMIT US EXIT FROM SVN "UNDER CONTROLLED CIRCUMSTANCES" (MARDER, WP). HAK SAID US EMBASSY SAIGON INSTRUCTED REDUCE STAFF, NOW BELOW 5000, TO 1000 OR FEWER. ADDED IF CONGRESS REFUSES SVN AID, ONLY NEGOTIATIONS POSSIBLE WILL BE TO

ARRANGE SVN SURRENDER (CARTER, NYDN). WITH LITTLE PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE, US HAS ORDERED LARGE-SCALE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICANS FROM SVN -- STEP LONG RESISTED BY AMB MARTIN (FINNEY, NYT). IN SERIES OF TENSE HEARINGS, CONGRESS SOUGHT ANSWERS CONCERNING WHAT MORAL OBLIGATION US HAS FOR CONTINUING VN WAR, WHAT MIL ADVANTAGE WILL BE SERVED BY ADVANCING 722 MILLION DOLS IN AID, AND WHAT ARE DANGERS OF FURTHER MIL INVOLVEMENT IF PRES' AND SECSTATE REQUESTS CARRIED OUT (STROUT, CSM). WSTAR'S BRADSHAW (4/15) NOTES VIET EVACUATION DISCUSSIONS VEILED IN SECRECY IN CONGRESS.

SECDEF BEFORE HSAC TUESDAY, PREDICTED 200,000 S VIETS WILL BE KILLED IF SVN FALLS, AND TOLL COULD GO TO 1 MILLION. SAID PRES' AID REQUEST NEEDED TO RECONSTITUTE 4 OF 6 DIVS THAT COLLAPSED DURING RETREAT (CHITRIB). DESPITE SECSTATE'S AND SECDEF'S HARD-SELL PITCH, LITTLE CHANCE CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE ALL MONEY SOUGHT (CARTER, NYDN). NEAR-CRISIS ON HILL AS CONGRESS SEEKS DECIDE WHETHER PROVIDE EXTRA SVN AID BEFORE APRIL 19 DEADLINE SET BY PRES (FINNEY). CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HAVE STRUCK TENTATIVE DEAL WITH ADMIN TO PROVIDE PRES WITH 200-250 MILLION DOLS "CONTINGENCY FUND" THAT COULD INCLUDE SVN MIL AID; IN RETURN, WANT QUICK EVACUATION OF MOST AMCITS FROM SAIGON. SFRC ATTEMPTING PUT TOGETHER PACKAGE (FRIEDMAN, PHINQ). SEVERAL SFRC MEMBERS SAID DRAFTING BILL TO GIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRES AUTHORITY USE US TROOPS IF NECESSARY FOR EVACUATION (PEPPER, SUN). SEVERAL SENS SAID FINAL APPROVAL OF WITHDRAWAL LEGISLATION WILL AWAIT ASSURANCES AMB MARTIN IMPLEMENTING PRES' PLEDGE FOR ACCELERATED REDUCTION OF AMCITS IN SVN. DOD SOURCES SAY 900 AMERICANS AIRLIFTED FROM SAIGON YESTERDAY, LEAVING ABOUT 3840 (RICH, LYONS, WP).

GVN ARMS LOSSES DURING RETREAT PUT AT 780 MILLION DOLS, ACCORDING DOD'S VON MARBOD, IN REPLY SEN CHURCH'S ESTIMATE OF 5-10 BILLION (AP NYT, SUN; CHITRIB; WP). DOD GIVES SKEPTICAL CONGRESS PROPOSAL TO RESTORE ARVN TO APPROX PARITY WITH NVA AT COST OF 722 MILLION IN MIL

AID. SECDEF AND GEN WEYAND GAVE DETAILS TO SENATE AND HOUSE ARMED SERVICE COMMITTEES. COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONCERNED AID NOT ONE-TIME SHOT, BUT HARBINGER OF MORE IN FUTURE (CORDDRY, SUN).

WH SAYS VOA ORDERED REFRAIN FROM SPECULATION ON US EVACUATION FROM SVN, SINCE COULD ENDANGER LIVES (NYT). WORLD AIRLINE'S DALY SENT PRES TELEGRAM URGING, IN COLORFUL LANGUAGE, GET MOVING TO CUT RED TAPE, HELP PEOPLE ESCAPE SAIGON. SAID MESSAGE DRAFTED AFTER TWO

OF HIS PLANES, SENT FROM TOKYO TO SAIGON, RETURNED EMPTY BECAUSE "AMERICAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE" AUTHORITIES REFUSED ALLOW ANYONE ABOARD (UPI, PHINQ; NYT). DALY ALSO SENT CABLE TO PRES, CABINET, CONGRESS AND ALL US GOVS DENOUNCING "INCOMPETENTS" FOR ENDING CONTRACT TO FLY RICE TO PP. NEITHER WH NOR DOS COMMENTED (BINDER, NYT).

EEC COUNTRIES REJECT US REQUEST THEY ASK NVN FOR C-F. MILD REBUFF IN LINE WITH EUR ALOOFNESS FROM US POLICY IN VN. US REQUESTS FOR SVN AID, NON-RECOGNITION OF VC COMPLIED WITH (UPI, CHITRIB; WP). FRANCE OPPOSES NATO SUMMIT AS NOT USEFUL BECAUSE "MOST BURNING" INTL ISSUES, INCLUDING INDOCHINA OUTSIDE ALLIANCE'S GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (NYT).

SWISS AIRLINE BALAIR HAVING CONFIRMED IT AND SEVERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER CARRIERS REFUSED FLY GOLD OUT AT THIEU, LON NOL REQUEST, GVN DENIES REPORTS (WP; AP, NYT).

BRITONS IN SAIGON ADVISED LEAVE IF WORK NOT ESSENTIAL, AND JAPAN TOLD NATIONALS GET OUT SOON AS POSSIBLE (WP). NEARLY ALL 200 US MISSIONARIES HAVE LEFT SVN, AT LEAST 7 MISSING IN AREAS SEIZED BY VC, AND TWO REMAINED IN CAPTURED REGIONS. SEVERAL STILL ON DUTY IN SAIGON (AP, CHITRIB).

RADIO HANOI SAYS "VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" OFFER AMCITS IN SVN SAFE PASSAGE IF ORDERED LEAVE "ALL AND AT ONCE" (WP). NVN NEWS AGENCY SAYS SECTION OF RR LINKING DA NANG WITH HUE REPAIRED, LINE RE-OPENED (AFP, NYT). MONTAGNARD CIVIL SERVANT WHO FLED VC OCCUPIED AREA WARNED US EMBASSY THAT NVN PLANS KILL ALL NON-COMMUNIST SVN LEADERS, ACCORDING DOS CABLE. ADDED THAT COMMUNIST OCCUPATION WOULD HAVE 3 PHASES: MIL TAKEOVER, SECURITY INVESTIGATION, "SLAUGHTERHOUSE" FOR NON-PRG LEADERS (NYDN).

BIEN HOA SHELLED, HALF SVN AIRCRAFT GROUNDED (UPI, NYDN;

CHITRIB); HOUSES BULK VNAF PARTS, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES (NYT). AIR POWER VITAL TO GVN. SHELLING VIEWED AS THREAT TO ARVN COUNTEROFFENSIVE (MIDDLETON, NYT). NVA REPORTEDLY MOVING 3 DIVS SOUTH. HITTING BIEN HOA WITH LONG-RANGE GUNS CONSIDERED OMINOUS, BECAUSE SHOWS NVA CONFIDENT ENOUGH MOVE HEAVY ARTILLERY CLOSE TO SAIGON. IN EFFORT TO KEEP GVN OFF-BALANCE, COMMUNISTS SHELL TAY NINH AFTER WEEK'S LULL. XUAN LOC FIGHTING CONTINUES AT REDUCED SCALE. WESTERN OFFICIALS EXPECT COMMUNISTS RENEW ATTEMPT CUT ROUTE 4 THAT CONNECTS CAPITAL WITH

DELTA. PHAN RANG SITUATION REPORTEDLY CRITICAL, MANY GVN SOLDIERS, OFFICIALS FLEE CITY (BUTTERFIELD, NYT). XUAN LOC LINE REPORTEDLY OVERRUN AS GVN MIL POSITION TAKES TURN FOR WORSE (GREENWAY, WP).

NYT'S BROWNE IN SAIGON REPORTS MANY VIETS SELL PROPERTY AT HUGE LOSS TO BUY GOLD, DOLLARS, PRESERVED FOOD, OCEAN-GOING JUNKS. DESCRIBES SITUATION IN CITY WHERE UNCLASSIFIED

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ENORMOUS NUMBER OF JOBLESS REFUGEES, DESERTERS, OTHERS BEG, STEAL, AND OTHERWISE TRY GET MONEY TO EAT. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND AT PHU QUOC DESCRIBES CONDITIONS ON ISLAND CROWDED WITH REFUGEES.

CSM'S HALVERSON QUOTES DOD ANALYSTS THAT DESPITE RECENT GVN STEPPED-UP MIL ACTIVITY, INITIATIVE REMAINS WITH NVA. GVN MUST AVOID Pincer ON SAIGON, KEEP ROAD TO DELTA OPEN. NVA HAS MANPOWER, LOGISTICS ADVANTAGES, AIRFIELDS IT CAN USE IN SVN, AND ARTILLERY, TANKS IT HAS SHIFTED TOWARD SAIGON.

NYC HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR DUMPSON SAYS "BABY-LIFT" REEKS OF LOWER-LEVEL POLITICS AND RACISM (FALLON, NYDN). BOST H-A (4/11) REVIEWS ORPHAN AIRLIFT, CONCLUDES THAT IF 1 CHILD CAN BE RESCUED AND WE NEGLECTED TO DO IT, WE SHOULD BE ASHAMED. ROZHON (SUN) AND BECKER/RICHARDS (WP) WRITE OF UNDOCUMENTED KHMER ORPHANS WHO ARRIVED AT DULLES AND MAY HAVE TO LEAVE IF CAN'T MEET LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

NYT CARRIES HALF-PAGE OF PHOTOS OF US EVACUATION OF PP. LON NOL BEGINS THERAPY FOR STROKE DAMAGE SUFFERED IN 1971 AT US ARMY HOSPITAL IN HAWAII (REUTER, NYT). RED CROSS PLAN TO MAKE HOTEL LE PHNOM NEUTRAL SANCTUARY APPARENTLY ABANDONED (NYT).

SIHANOUK SAID GOVT INSTALLED IN PP AFTER REBEL VICTORY WOULD BE NONALIGNED, DEMOCRATIC, AND PROGRESSIVE, BUT NOT COMMUNIST, WITH PENN NOUTH AS PREMIER AND KHIEU SAMPHAN VICE PREMIER (WP). SIHANOUK'S ROLE IN COMMUNIST

CAMBODIA LIKELY WILL BE FIGUREHEAD WITH GOVT DIRECTED BY KHIEU SAMPHAN, ACCORDING PRINCE'S SPOKESMAN (UPI NYDN, NYT). SIHANOUK PLEDGES DEMOCRATIC RULE (AFP, NYT). KHIEU SAMPHAN SENTENCED TO DEATH BY SIHANOUK IN 1966, BUT ESCAPED. HE IS COMMUNIST FAVORED BY PEKING, BUT ALSO NATIONALIST WITH REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY (NYT).

REBELS SAY THEY ARE IN PP. ABOUT 50 FOREIGNERS TRAPPED IN CAPITAL. ABOUT 10,000 KHMER REFUGEES CROSS INTO POIPET, NEAR THAI BORDER (NYDN). INSURGENTS CLOSE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ON PP FROM ALL SIDES AS DEFENDERS DRIVEN CLOSER IN (CHITRIB). CHINESE APPEAR PREPARING ELABORATE PEKING RECEPTION FOR SIHANOUK IN ANTICIPATION OF INSURGENT VICTORY. SIRIK MATAK, WHO REFUSED EVACUATION WITH AMERICANS, SENT CABLE TO PRES FORD SAYING CAMBODIAN DEATHS WOULD BE ON CONSCIENCE OF US PEOPLE (PHINQ). FANK STILL HOLD OUT IN PP AS REBELS MOVE IN, AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD FALTER (AP, SUN). POCHENTONG CLOSED THOUGH STILL IN GKR HANDS. SAK SUTSAKHAN REPORTEDLY TOLD TROOPS TO FIGHT TO END (WP).

NYT'S SCHANBERG IN PP REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING AND PEOPLE FLEEING BEFORE REBEL TROOPS. REFUGEES SWELL POPULATION, AND BIG INSURGENT PUSH FOR CAPITAL STARTED MONDAY HAS CAUSED NERVOUSNESS SO FAR BUT NO PANIC.

NATL ASSEMBLY IN LAOS DISSOLVED BY KING. POLITICAL SOURCES SAY ELECTION WILL BE HELD WITHIN 90 DAYS, BUT NO WORD THAT PL READY FOR ELECTION (REUTER, NYT).

2. JAPAN

MIYAZAWA TELLS DIET TUESDAY US REAFFIRMED DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO JAPAN (UPI, PHINQ) BUT DOES NOT MEAN CAN BRING IN NUKES WITHOUT JAPAN'S CONSENT (ROLLOW, WP).

ROLLOW (WP) CITES JAPANESE SOURCES THAT HAK GAVE ORAL ASSURANCE US WOULD DEFEND JAPAN AGAINST BOTH CONVENTIONAL, NUCLEAR ATTACKS, THUS PAVING WAY FOR LDP ENDORSEMENT OF NPT. NOTES JAPANESE PRESS STRESSING DIFFERENCE WITH US ON INDOCHINA, SAYING MIYAZAWA TOLD DOS OFFICIALS SITUATION REFLECTS SELF-DETERMINATION MORE THAN COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, AND NATL LIBERATION BOUND WIN. ADDS MIYAZAWA TOLD PRESS TUESDAY MIKI TO VISIT US EARLY AUGUST, MEET WITH PRES.

SECDEF IN SPEECH AT OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AWARDS DINNER TUESDAY ASSERTED US PREPARED FULFILL DEFENSE

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OBLIGATIONS IN ASIA, EUROPE, AND NATO, JAPAN, KOREA
DEFENSE TREATIES REMAIN "HIGHEST LAW OF THE LAND."
SAID US WILL CONTINUE PLAY "PROPER ROLE" IN SUPPORT
OTHER NATIONS THAT "EFFECTIVELY DEMONSTRATE" WILL,
CAPACITY FOR SELF-HELP (NYT).';

FULBRIGHT RECEIVES 17,000 DOL JAPAN FOUNDATION CASH
AWARD TUESDAY, IN RECOGNITION AS AUTHOR US STUDENT
EXCHANGE LAW (NYT).
JAPAN, SOVIET AGREE IN TOKYO SET N PAC SALMON CATCH
QUOTAS THIS YEAR AT 87,000 TONS FOR JAPAN, 100,000
TONS FOR SOVIET, ACCORDING INFORMED SOURCES TUESDAY
(AP, WP).

JAPAN LOWERS DISCOUNT RATE HALF-POINT, TO 8.5 PERCENT,
EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY; INTENDED SPUR SLUGGISH ECONOMY
(NYT). EPA ANNOUNCES TWO-YEAR RECESSION SEEMS ENDED
(CSM).

HONDA ANNOUNCES PLANS ASSEMBLE TRUCKS, MOTORCYCLES IN
EGYPT, SA, ALGERIA, SYRIA, WITH PETROFUNDS RAISED IN
ARAB MONEY MARKET (CSM).

3. KOREA

KIM YOUNG SAM URGES ROKG TUESDAY NOT CREATE "WARTIME
CRISIS MOOD" TO SUPPRESS DOMESTIC OPPOSITION; SHOULD
REALIZE INDOCHINA LEADERS" LOST POPULAR SUPPORT
BECAUSE OF DICTATORSHIP AND CORRUPTION" (NYT SPECIAL -
SEOUL).

KIM SANG HYOP, PRES KOREA U WHICH OCCUPIED BY
TROOPS, RESIGNS TUESDAY; SNU DEAN OF AGRICULTURE
RESIGNS AFTER STUDENT COMMITTED SUICIDE IN PROTEST
AGAINST PARK RULE (NYT).

4. PHILIPPINES

OBERDORFER (WP) IN MANILA QUOTES MARCOS THAT CALL FOR
REASSESSMENT OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH US NOT
SIGN OF HOSTILITY, OR ATTEMPT BLUFF WASHINGTON INTO
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PROVIDING MORE AID. CALLED US "OUR CLOSEST ALLY,
OUR MOST VALUABLE ALLY UP TO NOW" BUT SAID "PRUDENCE
REQUIRES ANY POLITICAL LEADER IN THE AREA TODAY TO
LOOK INTO THESE MATTERS IN VIEW OF THE DEBACLE IN THE
INDOCHINA AREAS."

MIL COMMISSION SENTENCES FIVE FIL NEWSBOYS TO BE SHOT BY FIRING SQUAD, FOUND GUILTY OF ROBBERY-SLAYING OF FIL CIRCULATION MANAGER FOR STARS AND STRIPES AT CLARK AIRBASE NOV, 1973 (AP, NYDN).

5. INDONESIA

MOCHTAR LUBIS RELEASED FROM DETENTION TUESDAY AFTER GOI OFFICIALS FAIL LINK HIM WITH ANTI-JAPANESE RIOTS IN JAN 1974 (AP, WP, PHINQ, NYT).

MALIK LEFT JAKARTA TUESDAY FOR THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT FINLAND, TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION (WP).

PERTAMINA REDUCES PRICE LOW-SULFUR MINAS OIL TO JAPAN, BY ONE DOL, TO 13.20/BBL; SECOND CUT THIS YEAR (JOC).

6. THAILAND

REBELS FIRED 20 ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES INTO ISOLATED ARMY OUTPOST MONDAY NIGHT; WOUNDED FOUR (WP).

HEARST'S FREIDEN IN LONDON (4/14) SAYS NEW COMMUNIST MILITARY FRONT -- "FREE THAILAND" -- BEING TRAINED BY HANOI; APPARENTLY GETTING ON-THE-GROUND TRAINING IN INDOCHINA; SOME MIL, POLITICAL OFFICERS SPOTTED WITH NVA STAFFS IN RECENT VN OFFENSIVE. ADDS THAI DIPLOMATS TRYING WORK OUT DELICATE ACCOMMODATION IN HANOI, FOR DRV AND ALLIES IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA DISARM FREE THAILAND UNITS, SEND HOME UNDER SPECIAL AMNESTY DEAL, IN RETURN RTG PROPOSES "SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS" WITH TOP-LEVEL RETURNEES TO HAVE JOIN NATL, LOCAL GOVT OFFICES.

7. AUSTRALIA
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DEFMIN BARNARD SAID TUESDAY NO EVIDENCE US PRISONERS KILLED IN MUSTARD-GAS BOMB TEST, AS ALLEGED BY FORMER PILOT. ALLEGATION BACKED BY SQDN LEADER GORDON JACQUES, NOW LAWYER IN SYDNEY, WHO SAYS ONLY FLT LEADERS TOLD HUMAN BEINGS ON ISLAND.

8. CHINA

CKS RITES HELD TAIPEI WEDNESDAY (NYDN). DELEGATIONS ATTEND FROM 20 OF 30 NATIONS THAT STILL RECOGNIZE, INCLUDING VP ROCKEFELLER (AP, SUN). VP FIRST MAJOR USG OFFICIAL VISIT TAIWAN SINCE NIXON PEKING VISIT (CHITRIB). CASKET WILL BE KEPT IN CATAFALQUE AT LAKE OF MERCY FOR ENTOMBMENT ON MAINLAND "WHEN IT IS

RECOVERED" (CANNON, WP).

VP TELLS PRESS ON PLANE TO TAIWAN VN OUTCOME, CONGRESSIONAL INTERFERENCE IN FOPOL HAVE MAKINGS OF POLITICAL ISSUE FOR 1976 (AP, NYDN). VP CRITICIZED CONGRESS FOR FAILURE APPROVE PRES' SEA MIL AID REQUESTS; DEPLORED TENDENCY "SOME AMERICANS" RETREAT FROM INTL COMMITMENTS INTO "FORTRESS AMERICA"; RAISED ISSUE OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONGRESS IF AMCITS LOSE LIVES, OR TAKEN CAPTIVE IN VN EVACUATION (CANNON, WP).

HALLORAN (NYT) IN TAIPEI NOTES VP SAID "FRIENDSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO CHARACTERIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN US" BUT MADE NO MENTION OF US-TAIWAN SECURITY TREATY, ALONG LINES PRES' SPEECH LAST WEEK. SEES REMARKS LIKELY REINFORCE TAIWAN FEAR ADMIN ABOUT CAPITULATE PEKING DEMANDS TO WITHDRAW REMAINING US FORCES, END TREATY COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN DEFENSE.

JOC'S STRAUSS IN HK NOTES OPENING OF 37TH CANTON TRADE FAIR MONDAY. SAYS BUSINESSMEN THINK RAW MATERIAL PRICES TO REMAIN AT WORLD LEVEL, BUT EXPECT CHINESE FURTHER LOWER PRICE OF GOODS WHICH SHOWED FIRST SIGN OF DECLINE IN FALL.

VICE-PM HSIEN-NIEN DUE VISIT ISLAMABAD NEXT WEEK
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ON FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT, FIRST BY TOP PRC
OFFICIAL SINCE 1960S (UPI, NYDN).

CHINA ANNOUNCES TUESDAY OIL PRODUCTION AT TACHING INCREASED 15 PERCENT IN FIRST QUARTER, AND OIL EXPORTS THROUGH CHINHUANGTAO 46 PERCENT (JOC - PEKING).

JOC'S DREYER IN BRUSSELS NOTES SOAMES' VISIT PEKING NEXT MONTH; CHINA "ACTIVELY" STUDYING EC PLAN FOR RELATIONS WITH STATE TRADE ORGANS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. INDOCHINA

GLOBE MAINTAINS CAMBODIAN OUTCOME "COULD AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREDICTED" YEARS AGO WHEN US SECRETLY BOMBED COUNTRY, SIHANOUK OVERTHROWN "WITH AMERICAN SUPPORT," AND NIXON ADMIN ORDERED CAMBODIA INVASION. US POLICY NOW SHOULD BE ONE OF ADHERING TO 1973 PARIS ACCORDS PLEDGING CONTRIBUTION TO HEALING INDOCHINA WOUNDS, POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

CSM ADVISES SPIRIT OF CONFIDENT RECONCILIATION WILL DEFUSE CONTROVERSY, AID PRACTICAL STEPS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT NATION'S REMAINING MORAL OBLIGATIONS IN MIDST OF INDOCHINA TRAGEDY (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WP NOTES BOTH CONGRESS, PRES FACED WITH DILEMMA IN DEALING WITH CONTINUED VN MIL AID AND RELATED PROBLEM OF SAFELY EVACUATING AMERICANS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT LAUDS LONG BORET'S "ADMIRABLE SENSE OF DUTY," COMPARES CHARADE OF CABINET SHIFTS IN SVN, THIEU REFUSAL STEP DOWN. IN ACCOMPANYING EDIT, NYT STRESSES URGENCY OF SVN GETTING NEEDED FOOD, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (BOTH IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WSTAR (APR 15) PRAISES "NEATNESS" OF PP AMCITS EVACUATION; CAUTIONS CONGRESS THAT SVN EVACUATION PROBLEMS IMMENSELY UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE COMPLICATED, CHANCES FOR TRAGEDY MUCH GREATER (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

TO HEARST'S KINGSBURY SMITH, ONE OF MOST ASTONISHING ASPECTS OF SVN DEBACLE HAS BEEN WEST'S TENDENCY TO IGNORE SOVIET'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED (BOST NA, APR 9).

NYT'S RESTON SEES ADMIN, CONGRESS "PLAYING GAMES" OVER PRES' 722 MILLION DOL REQUEST; WHAT IS NEEDED IS FOR HAK'S "FRIENDS" -- PRC AND SOVIET -- TO HELP US PRESSURE HANOI NEGOTIATE END TO WAR (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

IN PARIS, WSJ'S ROYSTER CONCLUDES THAT AS RESULT OF INDOCHINA SITUATION, US CURRENTLY NOT VIEWED IN EUROPE AS STRONG, UNASSAILABLE, WORLD POWER IT ONCE WAS, NOR AS DEPENDABLE ALLY.

CHILDS (SUN) FEELS ALTHOUGH FRAIL HOPE SAIGON AREA DEFENSE CAN HOLD UNTIL POLITICAL SOLUTION ACHIEVED, EVACUATION COMPLETED, THAT MIGHT BE JUSTIFICATION TO VOTE 722 MILLION DOLS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

CBS RADIO REPORTS LONG ISLAND NEWSDAY'S INSISTENCE HAK RESIGN, BECAUSE FOR TWO YEARS HE MISLED US ABOUT SECRET NIXON-THIEU UNDERSTANDINGS.

WSJ DEPLORES OSCAR-WINNER SCHNEIDER'S "BREECH OF DECORUM" IN HAILING HANOI'S IMPENDING "LIBERATION" OF SVN ON AWARDS FORUM.

QUOTING US PRESIDENTS SINCE TRUMAN, KNIGHT'S FRIEDMAN CONTENTS GREAT US BLOODBATH OF BLAME OVER WHO LOST

INDOCHINA NOT LIKELY, SINCE BLAME ENOUGH TO GO AROUND
(PHINQ).

GLOBE'S DAVID WILSON SEES POLLS INDICATING US
PUBLIC HAS DRAWN LESSON FROM COMMUNISTS' ABILITY
BLEED US THROUGH INDOCHINA WOUND; BUT THEIR GOVT,
JUDGING BY FORD APR 10 ADDRESS, HAS NOT (APR 12).

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HALBERSTAM (GLOBE APR 14) HOLDS US GAVE SVN NOT TOO
LITTLE, BUT TOO MUCH; MADE THEM MORE DEPENDENT ON US,
OUR TECHNOLOGY, THAN UPON THEMSELVES; GAVE THEM WRONG
THINGS -- WHAT WE WANTED FOR THEM, NOT WHAT THEY WANTED.

SUN'S ABRAMS, IN THAILAND, REPORTS MIA SEARCH TEAMS
IN INDOCHINA BEING HANDICAPPED NOT ONLY BY LOGISTICAL
DIFFICULTING OF REACHING MEN'S LAST KNOWN POSITIONS,
BUT QUEST FOR CLUES HAS BEEN THWARTED BY POLITICAL
ISSUES THAT HAVE MADE MIA MERE PAWNS IN PROPAGANDA
CONTEST (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
MOSCOW
TREASURY
HONG KONG
JEC PARIS INFO USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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